

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for billing for services in a communications network, comprising the steps of:
 - bridging at a service node within the network a first call made by a calling party with a second call established to a called party to create a bridged call;
 - processing the bridged call in accordance with signaling information associated therewith to create a processed call;
 - creating a billing module for the processed call that includes billing information associated therewith; and
 - merging the processed call into the network along with the billing module.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - sending the billing module to a service switching point.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling information comprises a trigger to initiate a call transfer feature, and processing the call based on the signaling information comprises:
 - establishing a third call with a target party responsive to the call transfer trigger;
 - un-bridging the first call from the second call; and
 - bridging the first call with the third call, wherein the billing module includes service values related to billing information for the call transfer feature.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - invoking a call merge procedure to merge the bridged first and third calls along with the billing module into the network.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the service values include a telephone number for the target party.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the service values include a time stamp that indicates the time when the first and second calls were un-bridged.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the time stamp further indicates when the first and third calls were bridged.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling information comprises a trigger to initiate a call conferencing feature and processing the call based on the signaling information comprises:
 - establishing a second call and a third call through the service switching point; and
 - bridging the first, second and third calls with each other, wherein the billing module includes service values related to billing information for the call conferencing feature.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 - invoking a call merge procedure to merge the bridged calls along with the billing module into the network.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein the service values include telephone numbers for the second and third calls.
11. The method of claim 8, wherein the service values include a time stamp that indicates when the first, second and third calls were merged.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the created billing module by a service switching point;
appending the billing module to a billing record for the first call; and
sending the billing record including the appended billing module to a billing system for generating a bill.
13. A method for billing for services offered by an advanced intelligent network (AIN), the method comprising:
receiving a trigger to initiate a call transfer feature at a service node;
creating a first billing module to identify the call transfer feature;
establishing a call to a target party of the call transfer through a service switching point;
un-bridging an existing call between a calling party and a called party;
bridging the calling party call and the established target party call;
creating a second billing module including a date and time stamp indicating when the call between the calling party and the target party is bridged at the service node;
invoking a call merge procedure by removing the bridged call between the calling party and the called party from the service node and merging the bridged calls into the service switching point; and
sending the created first and second billing modules to the service switching point during the call merge procedure.
14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
receiving the created billing modules by the service switching point;
appending the billing modules to a billing record for the calling party call;
and

sending the billing record including the appended billing modules to a billing system for generating a bill.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving the calling party call at the service switching point;

creating the billing record for the calling party call, the billing record

containing billing information for the calling party call;

responsive to an AIN trigger from the calling party, launching a query to a service control point;

receiving an address for the service node; and

sending the calling party call to the service node identified by the address.

16. A method for billing for services offered by an advanced intelligent network (AIN), the method comprising:

receiving a trigger to initiate a call conferencing feature at a service node;

creating a first billing module to identify the call conferencing feature;

establishing a call to a target party for the conference call through the service switching point;

bridging the established target party call with an existing call between a calling party and a called party to establish the conference call;

creating a second billing module including a date and time stamp indicating when the conference call with the target party was connected;

invoking a call merge procedure by removing the bridged call between the calling party, the called party and the target party from the service node and merging the bridged conference call into the service switching point; and

sending the created first and second billing modules to the service switching point during the call merge procedure.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
receiving the created billing modules by the service switching point;
appending the billing modules to a billing record for the calling party call;
and
sending the billing record including the appended billing modules to a
billing system for generating a bill.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
receiving the calling party call at the service switching point;
creating the billing record for the calling party call, the billing record
containing billing information for the calling party call;
responsive to an AIN trigger from the calling party, launching a query to a
service control point;
receiving an address for the service node; and
sending the calling party call to the service node identified by the address.